

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-10 are under rejection and claims 11-19 were previously withdrawn.

Claim 1 is amended. Support for the amendment is found, for example, at page 12, line 20 to page 13, line 3. New claims 20-26 have been added. Support for these claims is found, for example, on pages 12-13. Applicant notes an interview with Examiner took place on December 2, 2003. Applicant discussed the proposed amendment submitted November 19, 2003. The Examiner indicated that the proposed amendment to claim 1 would distinguish over the prior art cited in the final Office action. However, the Examiner also stated that further consideration of the claim would be needed. In view of certain comments provided by the Examiner, the claims have been amended to better emphasize features in the invention that are patentably distinct over the prior art. Entry of the amendments and allowance are respectfully requested.

(In view of the foregoing reasons for distinguishing over the cited references, Applicant has not raised other possible grounds for traversing the rejections, and therefore nothing herein should be deemed as acquiescence in any rejection or waiver of arguments not expressed herein.)

CONCLUSION

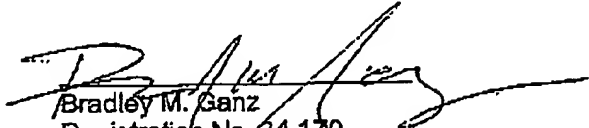
Applicant submits that in view of the foregoing arguments and/or amendments, ~~the application is in condition for allowance, and favorable action is respectfully~~ requested. The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any fees, including

extension fees, which may be required, or credit any overpayments, to Deposit Account

No. 50-1001.

Respectfully submitted,

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